

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for routing electronic messages, the method comprising:
2 routing an electronic message directed to an intended recipient to a supervisory
3 recipient; and
4 enabling the electronic message to be screened by the supervisory recipient.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein routing the electronic message includes
2 notifying the intended recipient that the electronic message has been routed to the
3 supervisory recipient.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein routing the electronic message does not
2 include notifying the intended recipient that the electronic message has been routed to the
3 supervisory recipient.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the electronic message to be
2 screened further comprises:
3 allowing the supervisory recipient to approve or reject the electronic message, and
4 forwarding the approved electronic message to the intended recipient.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein enabling the electronic message to be
2 screened further comprises:
3 comparing an electronic address of a sender of the electronic message to at least one
4 sender list, and
5 approving or rejecting the electronic message based on a result of the comparison.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of
2 approved senders such that comparing the electronic address comprises comparing the
3 electronic address of the sender to the list of approved senders.

1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of
2 blocked senders such that comparing the electronic address comprises comparing the
3 electronic address of the sender to the list of blocked senders.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising establishing the supervisory
2 recipient for the intended recipient.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the intended recipient is a minor child and the
2 supervisory recipient is a guardian for the minor child such that establishing the supervisory
3 recipient includes establishing the guardian as the supervisory recipient for the minor child.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory
2 recipient have related accounts within an electronic mail service such that routing the
3 electronic message includes routing the electronic message to an account for the supervisory
4 recipient that is related to an account for the intended recipient.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory
2 recipient have unique screen names comprising a single Internet service provider account.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory
2 recipient have unrelated accounts such that routing the electronic message includes routing
3 the electronic message to the supervisory recipient account unrelated to the intended recipient
4 account.

1 13. The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic message comprises an email
2 message such that routing the electronic message includes routing the email message.

1 14. The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic message comprises an instant
2 message such that routing the electronic message includes routing the instant message.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic message comprises a chat room
2 message such that the routing includes routing the chat room message.

1 16. A system for routing electronic messages, the system comprising:
2 a routing software module that sends to a supervisory recipient an electronic message
3 that would otherwise be routed to an intended recipient;

4 a screening software module that allows the electronic message to be screened by the
5 supervisory recipient and allow the supervisory recipient to approve or reject the electronic
6 message; and

7 a forwarding software module that forwards the electronic message to the intended
8 recipient if approved by the supervisory recipient.

1 17. The system of claim 16 wherein the routing software module notifies the
2 intended recipient that the electronic message has been routed to the supervisory recipient.

1 18. The system of claim 16 wherein the routing software module does not notify
2 the intended recipient that the electronic message has been routed to the supervisory
3 recipient.

1 19. The system of claim 16, wherein the screening software module comprises:
2 a first software module that compares an electronic address of a sender of the
3 electronic message to at least one sender list, and
4 a second software module that approves or rejects the electronic message based on a
5 result of the comparison.

1 20. The system of claim 19 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of
2 approved senders.

1 21. The system of claim 19 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of
2 blocked senders.

1 22. The system of claim 16 further comprising a supervisor establishing software
2 module that establishes the supervisory recipient for the intended recipient.

1 23. The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module for designating
2 a minor child as the intended recipient and for designating a guardian for the minor child as
3 the supervisory recipient.

1 24. The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module that relates
2 accounts of the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient within an electronic mail
3 service.

1 25. The system of claim 24 further comprising a software module that enables the
2 intended recipient and the supervisory recipient to have unique screen names comprising a
3 single Internet service provider account.

1 26. The system of claim 16 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory
2 recipient have unrelated accounts.

1 27. The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module for receiving an
2 e-mail message as the electronic message.

1 28. The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module for receiving an
2 instant message as the electronic message.

1 29. The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module for receiving a
2 chat room message as the electronic message.

1 30. A computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program
2 for processing by a computer, the computer program comprising:

3 a first code segment that causes the computer to route to a supervisory recipient an
4 electronic message that would otherwise be routed to an intended recipient;

5 a second code segment that causes the computer to enable the electronic message to
6 be screened by the supervisory recipient and allows the supervisory recipient to approve or
7 reject the electronic message; and

8 a third code segment that causes the computer to forward the electronic message to
9 the intended recipient if approved by the supervisory recipient.

1 31. The computer program of claim 30 wherein the first code segment causes the
2 computer to notify the intended recipient that the electronic message has been routed to the
3 supervisory recipient.

1 32. The computer program of claim 30 wherein the first code segment does not
2 cause the computer to notify the intended recipient that the electronic message has been
3 routed to the supervisory recipient.

1 33. The computer program of claim 30 wherein the second code segment causes
2 the computer to:

3 compare an electronic address of a sender of the electronic message to at least one
4 sender list, and

5 approve or reject the electronic message based on a result of the comparison.

1 34. The computer program of claim 33 wherein the at least one sender list
2 includes a list of approved senders.

1 35. The computer program of claim 33 wherein the at least one sender list
2 includes a list of blocked senders.

1 36. The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a fourth code segment
2 that causes the computer to establish the supervisory recipient for the intended recipient.

1 37. The computer program of claim 36 further comprising a code segment that
2 causes the computer to designate a minor child as the intended recipient a guardian for the
3 minor child as the supervisory recipient.

1 38. The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a code segment that
2 causes the computer to relate accounts of the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient
3 within an electronic mail service.

1 39. The computer program of claim 38 further comprising a code segment that
2 causes the computer to recognize unique screen names comprising a single Internet service
3 provider account as the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient.

1 40. The computer program of claim 30 wherein the intended recipient and the
2 supervisory recipient have unrelated accounts.

1 41. The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a code segment for
2 causing the computer to receive an e-mail message as the electronic message.

1 42. The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a code segment for
2 causing the computer to receive an instant message as the electronic message.

1 43. The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a code segment for
2 causing the computer to receive a chat room message as the electronic message.